



Savage City Connection / August 2024

Get to know Police Chief Brady Juell

After a competitive recruitment process, Brady Juell was selected as the new City of Savage Chief of Police. Juell took over as Police Chief on June 10, 2024. He joins our team as a seasoned law enforcement professional with 29 years of experience. Most recently, Chief Juell served the community of Elko New Market as the City's Chief of Police and Emergency Management Director for five years. Learn more about Chief Juell in the Q&A below.



Q: How will you spend your first 100 days?

A: My primary focus, right out of the gate, is to learn about and get to know my staff and the community. My philosophy is we provide the best public safety to our community when we have the best staff. This means ensuring they have the support, resources, and training to succeed. I also plan to meet with our community stakeholders, including our schools, businesses, commissions, and, of course, residents. I want to hear their expectations and challenges so we can work together to keep our community a safe place to live and raise a family. My vision is to continue to build on the excellence that Chief Seurer established.

In the long term, my focus will be on recruitment and retention of officers. I see my role as helping prepare the organization's next leaders. Because, eventually, I will retire too. I want to give our officers opportunities to gain experience and be successful so they are prepared to step in, move up, and be ready to carry on as the next leaders in the Savage PD.

Q. What makes you a good fit for our community?

A. I bring an extensive public safety background and a lot of educational experience, including a master's degree in Public Safety and Law Enforcement Leadership and a BA in Minority and Ethnic Studies and Law Enforcement. But more than that, I have a lot in common with Chief Seurer. We both believe in many of the same standards and principles. Like Rodney, I am fully committed to community engagement and I enjoy being involved with the community and working together. We both are pretty good-natured and have positive attitudes and like Rodney, I also hold myself and my staff to high standards. I believe in constant training, investing in wellness resources, and developing my officers and staff so they can be successful. Lastly, I am committed to the mission and vision of the Savage PD to provide the best possible public safety focus and police department possible.

Q. What do you want the community to know about you?

A. Being offered this position was humbling and an opportunity of a lifetime. I know many people would like to be in this seat, and I take that very seriously. I am thrilled about the opportunity to connect with and build relationships with the outstanding individuals of the Savage Police Department, along with other dedicated professionals who contribute to our City's success. The prospect of getting to know everyone and learning from their experiences is truly exciting for me. My vision moving forward is to continue to build on the excellence that Chief Seurer established. We have an opportunity to do some special things here, and I am ready to go!

We are so happy to welcome Chief Juell to Savage. Say hello the next time you see him out and about in the community.

City of Savage Communications Division brings home the hardware

Congratulations to the Communications Division for winning three first place, one second place, and one best of show awards from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC). These projects competed against hundreds of entries:

- **Northern Lights Award and Best of Show:** Savage Fire Station Vacation promotional video
- **Northern Lights Award:** Heroes Live Forever public safety video
- **Northern Lights Award:** Pancake Breakfast promotional video
- **Silver Award:** I'm a Savage Employee video short/social media campaign

The Northern Lights Awards recognizes outstanding work in Minnesota's government, educational, and non-profit communications. "It's really fun to hear other cities are following our work and using that to set standards for their own communications," said Communications Manager Emily Gunderson. We are incredibly proud of our communications team for being among Minnesota's best local government communicators!



Communications Specialist/Graphic Designer Katie Gieseke and Digital Media Coordinator Anthony Miller are among the best communicators in Minnesota.

Be Considerate.

<p>Keep your dog leashed</p>	<p>Pick up after your pet</p>
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Upcoming Community Events

2024 Night to Unite | August 6, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Who's ready for Night to Unite? Our police officers, firefighters, staff, and elected officials are! We're shining up our vehicles, gathering goodies to hand out, and getting excited to meet everyone at parties large and small all around the community.

Reminder: We will collect donations for school supplies, diapers, and non-perishable food items during the event, which will be distributed locally to schools and food shelves serving our community. Donations can also be dropped off at the Savage Police Department through August 7. For more details, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Wells at jwells@cityofsavage.com or **952-882-2604**.

Annual Shredding Event | August 24, 9-11 a.m.

Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.

Savage residents can bring up to two banker boxes or grocery bags of documents to shred for FREE. Crews will unload them into a secured cart where Veteran Shredding will shred the paper on-site. Examples of documents to shred include papers with identifying information such as your birth date, signature, account numbers, passwords, PINs, social security numbers, deposit slips, credit card receipts, banking statements, and credit card offers.

Accepted items include white and colored paper and folders. Staples, paper clips, and rubber bands do not have to be removed. Unacceptable items include three-ring binders, larger binder clips, tapes/CDs/DVDs, and medical waste.

Funding to support this service comes from the annual recycling day event and related grants. Questions can be directed to Recreation Services Manager Chris Dill at cdill@cityofsavage.com or **952-224-3421**.

Treats 'n Tunes | August 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

Schroeder's Acres Park, 12320 Boone Ave.

Join your neighbors, family, and friends for an evening of fun and entertainment! Enjoy FREE ice cream and yard games from 6-7 p.m. and listen to a performance from the Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Band from 7-8 p.m. Treats 'n Tunes is hosted at a different park and feature a new musician throughout the summer. View a summer schedule online at cityofsavage.com.

FREE Car Seat Check and Install

August 30, 3-7 p.m.

Fire Station 2, 13150 Dakota Ave., Savage

Is your child in the right car seat? Is it installed correctly? Installing a car seat for an infant or toddler can be daunting. Our certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians can help! Please bring:

- Your car seat(s) and/or booster(s) already installed
- Your child safety restraint device manual
- Your vehicle (s) and vehicle manual

Appointments are encouraged. To schedule a car seat check, please contact Esther at **651-796-8142** or cpsassociates.delacruz@gmail.com. This event is in partnership with Children's Minnesota.



Savage's flood prevention efforts

If you think the recent flooding was a whopper, some historical perspective might be in order. On June 30, 2024, the Minnesota River was estimated to have crested in Savage at 717 feet. This is the second-highest water level recorded. The highest recording was 719 feet on April 15, 1965, when heavy winter snows and early spring rains sent the Minnesota River gushing over its banks. In 1965, Interstate 35W was closed for days between Bloomington and Highway 13 in Burnsville as water rushed over it. Trains were halted, and many gravel roads were closed. In Savage, the Credit River raged, eventually overflowing and causing flooding on Elm Street (now known as Quentin Ave.) in the downtown area. A massive community sandbagging effort was undertaken to protect downtown businesses. According to old newspaper clippings, nearly 300 volunteers, including more than 200 high school students, worked for three days to build a mile-long, five-foot-high dike down the middle of Highway 13 in hopes of keeping the flood waters from seeping into downtown. Despite the travel headaches, a major catastrophe was avoided in Savage, as very few homes were impacted by the flood. In Savage, most damage was limited to highways, roads, railroads, and industrial buildings.



The community, including many teenagers, came together to help out with sandbagging after the flood in 1965.

This past June, extreme rain in West Central Minnesota resulted in significant flooding of the Minnesota River. Fortunately for us in Savage, the impact was minimal with only a few minor road closures. This is due in part to the city planning and preparing for how to mitigate the effects of future flooding. The City utilizes an action plan that incorporates anticipated flood elevations and steps necessary to protect certain areas. Since 1965, several improvements have been made to Highway 13 to improve traffic flow and safety. Partnering agencies have taken these opportunities to raise the highway's elevation when possible and incorporate storm sewer system improvements to help reduce the amount of runoff and provide flood control for the City. Adding stormwater ponds and control features to the storm sewer system in areas north and south of Hwy. 13 prevents water from the Minnesota River flowing to the downtown area and causing major flooding. As a result of these past and ongoing efforts, Savage is "flood ready" and has infrastructure in place to reduce the risk of flooding in the downtown area of our City.

NEW! Police and Fire Citizen's Academy

Thursdays, September 12 - November 7
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location TBD

FREE and open to all interested adults, 18 years and older, who live or work in Savage. Even if you have gone through the Citizen's Academy before, join us again to get insight into our fire service operations.

Do you want to learn what police officers and firefighters do, how they do it, and most importantly, why? Then, sign up for the first combined Police and Fire Citizen's Academy, a six-week course designed for the average citizen who wants an up-close and interactive look at the Savage Police and Fire Department operations and what it takes to protect our community. This year, the Academy includes:

- Use of Force
- Drug Task Force
- Investigations and Crime Scene Processing
- Shoot/Don't Shoot simulator
- CPR certification class
- Fire truck and station tours
- Fire hose and gear drills
- And many more!

Register online at cityofsavage.com. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up right away.



Meet Police Sergeant Dallas Stadick

Sergeant Stadick has been with the Savage Police Department since 2018. Before that, he was with the St. James Police Department for 3 1/2 years.



How long have you been a police officer, and how long have you been with Savage Police?

I've been a police officer for ten years now. I started my career in St. James, Minnesota, and moved to Savage PD in February 2018. Recently, I was promoted to Sergeant, and I am proud to be a police officer and a resident of this City.

Why did you want to be a police officer?

My great-great-grandfather was a constable in Albany, Minnesota, and I have a cousin who is currently a police officer in New Ulm. My friends and family inspired me to go into this career field.

What's the best part of your job?

Besides the dozens of buttons in the squad car that make the lights flash and the wee woo sounds, it's an incredibly unique job in that no two days are ever the same. I'm not confined to an office; I get to be outside and hands-on in our community to help make it a better place to live in daily. I love participating in community events, including Polar Plunge, Holiday Heroes, the Torch Run, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace, to name a few. This job allows me to see and do so many incredible things and meet amazing people, making me feel grateful for this opportunity.

What do you like to do when you are not working?

I am a huge nerd and enjoy playing games on the gaming PD I built. My favorite outdoor activities are golfing, kayaking, and rock climbing. I also really enjoy woodworking, building, and fixing things.

What is your favorite candy?

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Community Engagement Opportunities

2024 Community Survey is open to all residents

How is life in Savage? All residents are invited to participate in the open survey now through August 5, 2024. The survey will take about 10 minutes and can be found at <https://polco.us/Savage24>. The city needs input from the entire community to make data-driven decisions that benefit all residents. For more information on this process, visit cityofsavage.com.

Let's Talk Savage!

What's your vision for the future of downtown Savage?

We know you have ideas and opinions, and we want to hear from you! To share your vision, go to letstalksavage.com.

The City is creating a long-range redevelopment vision for the downtown area. This plan is currently underway and will be completed by the end of 2024. It will outline a long-range vision for the downtown to guide public and private actions to support redevelopment goals, enhance public spaces, improve connections, and support a stronger business community. The City wants to hear from residents, area employees, and business and property owners about their views of downtown Savage. Let us know what you enjoy about the area and what you want to see changed over time.

Good News!

The City maintains AAA bond rating.

The City of Savage has retained its AAA bond rating again this year! This is the highest quality rating a municipality can achieve. The City earned this rating because of its fiscal responsibility and sound financial policies. High credit ratings allow the City to borrow at lower interest rates, potentially saving the City millions of dollars in borrowing costs. Well done to the Finance Department and all staff for their fiscal responsibility!

Need a jump start for your business?

Enter the 8th annual Scott County Fast-Track Business Challenge.

The Fast-Track Business Challenge is for first-stage businesses with new product or service ideas currently in or willing to locate in Scott County. The goal is to assist entrepreneurs and put their business ideas on the fast track to success, resulting in job creation and enhanced economic development in the county. Learn more about eligibility, categories, and how to enter at scottcountyfasttrack.com. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2024.

Rec Corner

3rd Lair Skateboard Camp | August 12 -15

Join 3rd Lair instructors for a fun-filled 4-day camp working on developing your skateboard skills. The 3rd Lair camp program has been part of MN action sports development for over 26 years. 3rd Lair is the original, offering the most experienced, well-trained instructors and a proven reputation for success. Instruction is based on ability level, and instructors cater to individual needs. All ages 6+ and skill levels are welcome.

Registration deadline: August 4

Ages: 6+

Price: \$200

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

Location: Skate Community Park Skate Park, 13500 Dakota Ave.

Latchkey Program | August 14

Are you considering letting your child stay home alone before or after school? This full-day session is hosted by Savage Fire and Police and is designed to prepare kids ages 8 - 12 for this new responsibility. Educational topics include:

- Getting organized and setting ground rules
- Getting organized for morning alone time
- Getting home safely after school
- How to be safe at home
- What to do when someone calls/comes to the door
- How to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency
- Basic first aid and choking skills
- Fire safety, escape plans, and severe weather safety
- Having fun alone and keeping busy
- Handling sibling arguments
- Kitchen safety and healthy snacks

Registration deadline: August 7

Ages: 8 - 12

Price: \$25 per person

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Lunch will be provided.

Location: Fire Station 1, 14321 O'Connell Road

Monarch Tagging | August 25

Become a citizen scientist when you join Carpenter Nature Center for an insect survey and Monarch tagging. We will start by learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, their importance in the environment, and their amazing migration to Mexico. We will also catch, identify, and release any insects we find. If we spot a Monarch, we will also tag them! This data is then submitted to Monarch Watch and for scientists to study the success of the monarch population! Offered in collaboration with Carpenter Nature Center. Space is limited, register now!

Registration deadline: August 22

Ages: All ages

Price: \$5 per person. Children under 2 are free.

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: McColl Pond ELC, 13500 Dakota Ave.

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Savage Community Park summer projects

New turf is coming soon!

The Savage Sports Center (SSC) was constructed in 2012 and has been a draw for local and regional users for year-round softball, baseball, lacrosse, football, walkers, and soccer. It also hosts several large community events like the annual Flashlight Egg Hunt and Halloween Bash. After 12 years of heavy use, the synthetic turf field is showing signs that it's time to be replaced. The expected life span of artificial turf fields is 8 - 10 years. Replacing a synthetic turf field is a major project that will take 8 - 10 weeks. The process starts with cutting, rolling and removing the existing artificial turf. Several organizations will pick up and reuse the old turf for their batting cages etc. Then they will begin grading and drainage improvements by removing the old soil, rock and drain tile which is several feet down. In order to do this, they have to make a temporary ramp to drive over the 18" concrete wall that surrounds the turf. This will allow them to drive their trucks onto the surface for loading and unloading. Once the new turf is installed, they will cut each line out of the green turf and resew it with a new color for either soccer, lacrosse, or an independent field. The project is expected to be completed in late September before the dome enclosure goes up in October. The turf replacement and drainage improvements cost \$1.2M, which will be partially covered by a \$600,000 grant from the State of Minnesota Capital Investment Appropriations.

Community Park parking lot

You may remember that last year, all of the trails around Community Park were redone, improvements were made within the pinwheel ballfield area, and the pickleball courts were expanded. This year, the Community Park parking lot will be repaved, along with some additional concrete work on the concession stand and dugout areas. Work will begin in late July and is expected to be completed by the end of October. There will be some parking disruptions during construction, so watch for signage on where to park. The cost estimate is \$1M, paid from Park Dedication Funds.



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